

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Bradley J. Howard, et al.

SSA  
#3/9  
2-25-02

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2815

Filed: November 26, 2001

Examiner: P. Brock

For: METHOD OF CONTROLLING  
STRIATIONS AND CD LOSS IN  
CONTACT OXIDE ETCH

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, after the title, please insert -- This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/292,393, filed on April 15, 1999 (currently pending), and which is hereby incorporated by reference. --

Please rewrite paragraphs 0007, 0008, 0009, 0036 and 0038 as shown in the Replacement Paragraphs: